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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES ON A SYSTEM-WIDE BASIS: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AND THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTION IN THE AREAS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE FIELD LEVEL

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions E/1996/L.20 and L.22

Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions at the intergovernmental, intersecretariat and country levels,

Recognizing also the importance of joint initiatives between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in coordinating efforts for the implementation and follow-up of the commitments of the major United Nations international conferences and summits,

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Reaffirming that the recipient Government should play a leading role for the overall coordination of collaboration at the country level,

Concerned about the potentially serious impact on development of the decline in resources allocated to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Also concerned about the incomplete fulfilment of commitments to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association, and hoping that adequate resources will be made available for the eleventh replenishment,

Taking into account the ongoing deliberation on an agenda for development in which issues relating to the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions are being addressed,

Recalling Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations, with particular reference to the provisions setting forth the powers and functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council with respect to making recommendations and coordinating United Nations system activities within the scope of its competence,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening cooperation, communication and collaboration between the Council and its relevant subsidiary bodies, on the one hand, and the Bretton Woods institutions, on the other, in order to maximize the effectiveness of their respective development programmes and activities,

Noting the need to improve the Council's high-level sessions with the international financial and trade institutions by better preparing for and focusing the high-level dialogue, thereby advancing such cooperation, communication and collaboration and enhancing the quality, outcomes and value of the exchange of views,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels including the field level; 1/

2. Considers that the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions requires an integrated approach, encompassing a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on relevant areas of international development policy issues, taking into account their respective competencies;

3. Looks forward to the report and accompanying recommendations to be prepared jointly by the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in accordance with paragraph 86 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, on an early exploratory review to assess mechanisms, programmes and

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1/ E/1996/72 and Corr.1.

relationships at the field, headquarters and intergovernmental levels, with a view to identifying areas in which communication, cooperation and coordination could be improved;

4. Recommends the scheduling of a high-level special meeting at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions with a view to benefiting, to the extent possible, from ministerial participation and from the participation of heads of financial and trade institutions and other relevant organizations, as called for by the General Assembly in paragraph 88 of annex I to resolution 50/227;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the heads of the financial institutions by early 1997 in order to explore the possibilities and practical modalities of scheduling such a meeting; at a session of the Council to be held in early 1997, the Council should discuss the format, timing and possible agenda for the first such meeting;

6. Decides to explore concrete modalities for strengthening the exchange of information on development issues between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions;

7. Decides that, prior to the annual high-level policy dialogue between the Council and the international financial and trade institutions, and allowing sufficient time for preparation, the Secretariat should communicate to the financial and trade institutions a report on the relevant issues to be discussed at the session, with a primary focus on the agreed theme; that communication should be prepared in part based on the submission of issues and questions that member States could be invited to suggest to the Secretariat, which would then be taken into account in the preparation of the Secretariat's report to the institutions;

8. Recommends, in order to better focus the policy dialogue, exploring the possibility of having joint reports prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

9. Invites the financial and trade institutions participating in the high-level segment of the Council in 1997 to furnish relevant reports and studies on the selected theme, within their respective mandates and areas of expertise, and on important developments in the world economy and in international economic cooperation;

10. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to strengthen their cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat on issues falling within their respective competencies, such as multilateral external debt, challenges and opportunities of global financial integration and financing for development;

11. Decides to encourage cooperative working relations between the relevant units of the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional commissions, including, inter alia, improved arrangements for data collection and information exchange;

12. Decides that full implementation of existing agreements, the strengthening of existing mechanisms and the exploration of new avenues and mechanisms of cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and other bodies of the United Nations system should be encouraged and undertaken within the framework provided by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through, inter alia, participation in relevant meetings, information-gathering, information exchange, research, policy analysis and operational activities;

13. Stresses also that the recipient Government should play a leading role in the overall coordination of the collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions at the country level and that this collaboration should be on the basis of country-driven activities;

14. Stresses that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner; the operational activities of the United Nations system should be carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development; the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition;

15. Considers that efforts should be made to promote, in consultation and agreement with Governments, complementarity between the country strategy notes, where they exist, the policy framework papers of the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Bank's country assistance strategies;

16. Emphasizes that the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions should expand, whenever appropriate, their collaboration in co-financing field programmes and projects and should continue to explore innovative ways to combine and maximize their resources, under the overall guidance of the national Governments, in support of development activities at the field level;

17. Invites the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions to improve their cooperation in the preparation, discussion and follow-up of round-table meetings and consultative groups to promote policy discussions, as appropriate;

18. Stresses that the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions have to take full account of the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and that, in the course of their work, staff exchanges and information-sharing, in particular the sharing of evaluation methodologies and results, should be encouraged.